REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the examination of the application. However, favorable reconsideration is requested in view of the following remarks.

Claims 2, 3 and 5 remain canceled. Claims 1, 4, 6 and 7-23 are pending, with Claims 1, 10, 16 and 19 being independent. The Examiner is thanked for indicating that Claims 19 and 23 are allowed and that Claim 13 defines allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

The Official Action rejects Claims 1, 4, 6-12, 14-18 and 20-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,740,496), hereinafter *Kawabuchci*.

This application addresses a situation where a user of an image processing machine is interested in discarding a print job *and printing a new print job with different image data, but with the same image forming conditions*. As described in the present specification, one of the drawbacks associated with the prior art is that when a user discarded a print job the, the image forming conditions were also necessarily discarded. Thus, the user was then required to re-establish the image forming conditions necessary for the next print job.

The Examiner alleges that *Kawabuchi* can be interpreted as discarding the image data stored in the first memory when the command of discarding the image data is generated by the command unit, while maintaining the associated image forming conditions. See page 3, first paragraph, of the Official Action. With regard to the claimed "output control unit" for causing the output unit to output image data newly input from the image input unit after the discarding of image data from the first memory under the maintained image forming conditions, the Examiner cites column

3, line 50 to column 4, line 22 and column 9, line 17 to column 10, line 29. However, applicants dispute the Examiner's interpretation of *Kawabuchi*.

To help understand the differences between claim 1 and *Kawabuchi*, an explanation of the functions of *Kawabuchi* follows:

I: If the image reading operation of *Kawabuchi* is suspended, but the printing operation is in process, the pressing of clear key 93 causes the printing operation to be suspended. See Figure 13, steps S32, S37, and S38.

II: If both the image reading operation and the printing operation of *Kawabuchi* are suspended, the pressing of clear key 93 causes the set number to be cleared. See Figure 13, steps S32, S37, and S39.

III: If the image reading operation of *Kawabuchi* is in process, but the printing operation is suspended, the pressing of clear key 93 causes the image reading operation to be suspended. See Figure 13, steps S32, S37, and S36.

Thus, *Kawabuchi* does teach that the set number may be retained while suspending either the image reading operation or the printing operation, provided that the operation is in process when the clear key is pressed.

However, *Kawabuchi* is silent as to how to resume a printing operation after the suspension. For example, *Kawabuchi* does not disclose the combination of claim 1 that includes an "output control unit" for causing the output unit to ***output image data newly input from the image input unit*** after the discarding of image data from the first memory ***under the maintained image forming conditions***. The sections in *Kawabuchi* identified by the Examiner as allegedly corresponding to that claim element disclose discarding of data (column 10, lines 16 to 26), but do not

teach the features highlighted above concerning printing of newly input image data under the maintained image forming conditions.

With regard to claim 10, *Kawabuchi* does not teach the claimed combination that includes a print control unit for causing the printer to print another image data newly read by the image reader after the discarding of image data from the image memory under the maintained image forming conditions in the mode memory. See the explanation above with regard to claim 1.

Similarly, with regard to claim 16, *Kawabuchi* does not teach the claimed combination that includes printing a new image on a paper, based on the new image data acquired after the discarding of image data from the image memory, under the image forming conditions maintained in the memory. See the explanation above with regard to claim 1.

Accordingly, claims 1, 10, and 16 are patentable. Claims 4, 6 – 9, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17, 18 and 20-22 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependence from allowable independent claims.

For at least the above-reasons, it is requested that all the rejections be withdrawn and that this application be allowed in a timely manner.

In the event that there are any questions concerning this amendment, or the

application in general, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the

undersigned attorney so that prosecution of the application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC

Date: October 31, 2006   By: _Kei. Ø. McGrl (Ra. 57, 297)_
                                    William C. Rowland
                                    Registration No. 30,888

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620